

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently amended) A method for the preparation of a cross-linked hydrophilic coating of a hydrophilic polymer on a substrate polymer surface of a medical device, said method comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a medical device ~~comprising a substrate polymer having the a substrate polymer surface;~~

(ii) providing a polymer solution comprising 1-20% by weight of a hydrophilic polymer, 0-5% by weight of additive(s), and the balance of ~~said solution is comprised of a vehicle with plasticizing effect on the hydrophilic polymer, said vehicle comprising having at least one plasticizer having with a solubility in water of at least 6 g/L, a boiling point above 210°C at 760 mmHg, and a Hansen δ_H parameter of less than 20;~~

(iii) applying said polymer solution to said substrate polymer surface;

(iv) evaporating at least a part of the vehicle from said polymer solution present on said substrate polymer surface; and curing said hydrophilic polymer.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the polymer solution is applied to said substrate polymer surface in one single application step.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the vehicle comprises at least one solvent.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the polymer solution consists of: 1-20% by weight of the hydrophilic polymer, 0-5% by weight of additive(s), 1-40% by weight of plasticizer(s), and 50-95% by weight of solvent(s).

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the substrate polymer is polyurethane.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the hydrophilic polymer is polyvinyl pyrrolidone.

17. (Previously presented) A medical device comprising a substrate polymer surface having thereon a cross-linked hydrophilic coating of a hydrophilic polymer, said medical device being obtainable by the method of claim 11.

18. (Previously presented) A medical device comprising a hydrophilic coating of a cross-linked hydrophilic polymer, said coating comprising a hydrophilic plasticizer having a solubility in water of at least 6 g/L, a boiling point above 210°C at 760 mmHg, and a Hansen δ_H parameter of less than 20.

19. (Currently amended) ~~The medical device according to claim 11, further~~ A medical device comprising a hydrophilic coating of a cross-linked hydrophilic polymer, said coating ~~comprising~~ having a hydrophilic plasticizer ~~having~~ with a solubility in water of at least 6 g/L, a boiling point above 210°C at 760 mmHg, and a Hansen δ_H parameter of less than 20, which is prepared according to the method of claim 11.

20. (Currently amended) The method of use of a polymer solution for the preparation of a cross-linked hydrophilic coating, wherein said polymer solution comprises 1-20% by weight of a hydrophilic polymer, 0-5% by weight of additive(s), and the balance of said solution is comprised of a vehicle with having a plasticizing effect on the hydrophilic polymer, said vehicle additionally comprising at least one plasticizer having a solubility in water of at least 6 g/L, a boiling point above 210°C at 760 mmHg, and a Hansen δ_H parameter of less than 20, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

(a) applying said polymer solution to said substrate polymer surface;

(b) evaporating at least a part of the vehicle from said polymer solution present on said substrate polymer surface; and curing said hydrophilic polymer.

21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the hydrophilic polymer is polyvinyl pyrrolidone.